



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/915,611	07/26/2001	C. Steven Lingafelt	YOR920010054-US1	6792

7590 12/06/2004

Anne Vachon Dougherty
3173 Cedar Road
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

EXAMINER

POLLACK, MELVIN H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2145

DATE MAILED: 12/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/915,611

Applicant(s)

LINGAFELT ET AL.

Examiner

Melvin H Pollack

Art Unit

2145

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 July 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to because Figs. 4-6 have improper line and ink forms.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

2. In addition to Replacement Sheets containing the corrected drawing figure(s), applicant is required to submit a marked-up copy of each Replacement Sheet including annotations indicating the changes made to the previous version. The marked-up copy must be clearly labeled as "Annotated Marked-up Drawings" and must be presented in the amendment or remarks section that explains the change(s) to the drawings. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). Failure to

Art Unit: 2145

timely submit the proposed drawing and marked-up copy will result in the abandonment of the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 10-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

5. Claims 1-9, 10-18, and 19-27 are word-for-word copies of each other, and functionally redundant, with only grammatical changes. The examiner considers redundancy to be indefinite. Therefore, it is urged by the examiner that applicant change or modify claims 10-27.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coley et al. (5,826,014) in view of Belissent (6,789,203).

8. For claim 1, Coley teaches an apparatus (abstract; col. 1, line 1 – col. 6, line 50) comprising:

- a. A network resource server (Fig. 2, #214-218) having at least one computer system (Fig. 2, #216) comprising a central processing unit and server memory (Fig. 1, #118); and

Art Unit: 2145

- b. A network processor (Fig. 2, #210) coupled to said network resource server (Fig. 2, #212) comprising:
 - i. A plurality of interface processors (col. 3, line 58 – col. 4, line 10);
 - ii. Instruction memory for storing instructions accessibly to said interface processors (col. 7, lines 20-40);
 - iii. Data memory for storing data passing through said network processor to and from said network resource server accessibly to said interface processors (col. 7, line 40 – col. 8, line 16); and
 - iv. A plurality of input/output ports (col. 3, line 58 – col. 4, line 10):
 - (1) One of said input/output ports adapted for exchanging data passing through said network processor (Fig. 2, #206) with an external network (Fig. 2, #202) under the direction of said interface processors (col. 7, lines 1-20);
 - (2) At least one other of said input/output ports adapted for exchanging data passing through said network processor with said network resource server (col. 7, lines 1-20);
- c. Said network processor and said network resource server cooperating in directing the exchange of data between said input/output ports and the flow of data through said data memory to and from said network resource server in response to execution by said interface processors of instructions loaded into said instruction memory (Figs. 3 & 4);
- d. Said network processor further comprising at least one monitor for monitoring the data flow addressed to said network resource server (col. 6, lines 5-20 and 48-50), and at

least one modifier for modifying the instructions loaded into said instruction memory (col. 7, line 65).

9. Coley does not expressly disclose that said network processor further comprising at least one rate monitor for monitoring the rate of data flow addressed to said network resource server, at least one of said interface processors comprising a component for computing a derivative of data flow rate over time to determine the rate of change of data flow, and at least one modifier for modifying the instructions loaded into said instruction memory in response to the determined rate of change. Coley does teach that a variety of undisclosed monitors may be added as deemed fit or necessary for a particular scenario (col. 10, lines 28-35; col. 13, line 46 – col. 14, line 13). Belissent teaches a method (abstract) of preventing Denial of Service (DoS) attacks by monitoring and changing the rate of data flow (col. 1, line 1 – col. 3, line 40). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have used the Belissent rules in Coley's firewall box in order to block DoS attacks without blocking legitimate users or warning malicious users (col. 2, lines 20-45).

10. For claim 2, Coley does not expressly disclose that at least one interface processor further comprises means for comparing said determined rate of change to at least one predetermined boundary and wherein said modifier modifies the instruction when the rate of change has a prespecified relationship to said at least one predetermined boundary. Belissent teaches these limitations, as shown above and in other areas (col. 4, lines 10-50). At the time the invention was made, one would have noted Coley's concern regarding DoS attacks (col. 4, lines 10-25; col. 6, lines 15-20) and used the Belissent system to fulfill this requirement (col. 2, lines 50-65).

Art Unit: 2145

11. For claim 3, Coley and Belissent do not expressly disclose that said network processor comprises a semiconductor substrate and further wherein said interface processors, said instruction memory, said data memory, and said input/output ports are formed on said semiconductor substrate. Examiner takes Official Notice (see MPEP § 2144.03) that "processors, memory, etc. are formed on semiconductor substrates" in a computer networking environment was well known in the art at the time the invention was made. One of ordinary skill in the art would be aware that most chips, memory, etc., are developed on silicon chips or similar semiconductor substrates, and in fact would likely be unaware of any alternatives. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would have produced these items from semiconductor substrates.

12. The Applicant is entitled to traverse any/all official notice taken in this action according to MPEP § 2144.03. However, MPEP § 2144.03 further states "See also *In re Boon*, 439 F.2d 724, 169 USPQ 231 (CCPA 1971) (a challenge to the taking of judicial notice must contain adequate information or argument to create on its face a reasonable doubt regarding the circumstances justifying the judicial notice)." Specifically, *In re Boon*, 169 USPQ 231, 234 states "as we held in *Ahlert*, an applicant must be given the opportunity to challenge either the correctness of the fact asserted or the notoriety or reputation of the reference cited in support of the assertion. We did not mean to imply by this statement that a bald challenge, with nothing more, would be all that was needed". Further note that 37 CFR § 1.671(c)(3) states "Judicial notice means official notice". Thus, a traversal by the Applicant that is merely "a bald challenge, with nothing more" will be given very little weight.

13. For claim 4, Coley teaches that said network processor is adapted to process communication protocols (col. 1, lines 25-35; col. 6, lines 20-33; col. 7, lines 35-65) and to

Art Unit: 2145

exchange application data to be processed by said computer system with said network resource server (col. 10, lines 35-55).

14. For claim 5, Coley teaches that said network resource server has a plurality of computer systems serving diverse purposes (col. 2, lines 5-45) and said network processor directs application data to an appropriate one of said computer systems for exercising the data in accordance with the appropriate purpose therefore (col. 7, lines 40-45).

15. For claim 6, Coley does not expressly disclose that said network resource server has a plurality of computer systems serving a common purpose and said network processor directs application data to varying ones of said computer systems for exercising the data in a predetermined flow among said computer systems. Belissent teaches that the servers can have a common purpose (col. 4, line 65 – col. 5, line 5) and utilizing predetermined flow rates (col. 5, line 40 – col. 6, line 40). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have used a Belissent network in order to handle any system for any distributed network (col. 4, lines 50-65).

16. For claim 7, Coley and Belissent do not expressly disclose that the number of said interface processors exceeds four. Belissent does disclose that the number of processors may be any number (col. 7, lines 15-60). Examiner takes Official Notice (see MPEP § 2144.03) that “four or more processors” in a computer networking environment was well known in the art at the time the invention was made. Multi-processor computers are well known in the art, and the applicant fails to disclose the need or functionality for multiple processors, and further fails to show unexpected benefit or higher difficulty. At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have used four or more processors for aesthetic purposes.

Art Unit: 2145

17. The Applicant is entitled to traverse any/all official notice taken in this action according to MPEP § 2144.03. However, MPEP § 2144.03 further states "See also *In re Boon*, 439 F.2d 724, 169 USPQ 231 (CCPA 1971) (a challenge to the taking of judicial notice must contain adequate information or argument to create on its face a reasonable doubt regarding the circumstances justifying the judicial notice)." Specifically, *In re Boon*, 169 USPQ 231, 234 states "as we held in *Ahlert*, an applicant must be given the opportunity to challenge either the correctness of the fact asserted or the notoriety or reputation of the reference cited in support of the assertion. We did not mean to imply by this statement that a bald challenge, with nothing more, would be all that was needed". Further note that 37 CFR § 1.671(c)(3) states "Judicial notice means official notice". Thus, a traversal by the Applicant that is merely "a bald challenge, with nothing more" will be given very little weight.

18. For claim 8, Coley does not expressly disclose that said at least one rate monitor of said network processor monitors data flow inbound toward said network resource server and said at least one modifier increases the discard of inbound data upon the rate of change of inbound data exceeding a predetermined boundary. Belissent teaches these limitations (col. 5, line 40 – col. 6, line 40). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have combined the inventions to handle DoS attacks, as shown above.

19. For claim 9, Coley does not expressly disclose that said at least one modifier of said network processor decreases the discard rate of inbound data upon the rate of change of inbound data falling below a second predetermined boundary. Belissent teaches this limitation (col. 6, lines 30-40). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have combined the inventions to handle DoS attacks, as shown above.

Art Unit: 2145

20. Claims 10-27 are drawn to the limitations in claims 1-9. Therefore, since claims 1-9 are rejected, claims 10-27 are also rejected for the reasons above.

21. Claim 28 is drawn to the limitations in claims 1, 2, and 8. Therefore, since claims 1, 2, and 8 are rejected, claim 28 is also rejected for the reasons above.

22. Claims 29-32 are drawn to the limitations in claims 2, 8, and 9. Therefore, since claims 2, 8, and 9 are rejected, claims 29-32 are also rejected for the reasons above.

23. Claims 33-35 are drawn to the limitations in claims 30-32. Therefore, since claims 30-32 are rejected, claims 33-35 are also rejected for the reasons above.

24. Claim 36 is drawn to the limitations in claim 1. Therefore, since claim 1 is rejected, claim 36 is also rejected for the reasons above.

Conclusion

25. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melvin H Pollack whose telephone number is (571) 272-3887. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30 M-F.

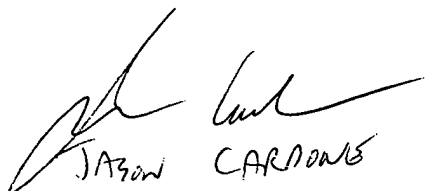
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Harvey can be reached on (571) 272-3896. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2145

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MHP

30 November 2004


JASON CARBONS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
AU: 2145